

**Office of the Mayor
City of Milton
City Hall
Milton, WV 25541**

March 12, 1999

Dr. Mark S. Carter
1417 West Main Street
Milton, WV 25541

Dear Dr. Carter:

I appreciate your efforts, to date, on behalf of the City of Milton regarding your work to acquire accurate updates and information concerning the Corps of Engineers Flood Mitigation/Flood Plain project. Your efforts have been instrumental in providing our elected and appointed officials with timely, accurate data concerning the project.

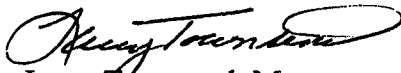
As you know, I rarely have the opportunity to interact with the Project Engineer and other interested parties in this initiative due to my busy work schedule and other important city projects that require my attention. Thus, I have come to rely on your efforts to maintain a working relationship between the City of Milton and the Corps of Engineers.

Since this project is now entering a critical phase in it's path to completion, your efforts on our behalf are more important than ever and I believe that such efforts need to be formalized. In that regard, I am formally designating you as Liaison Officer, Mud River Flood Mitigation/Flood Plain Project for the City of Milton.

This official designation will provide you with the authority to act on my behalf in matters relating to the project. In addition, I expect that you will continue to provide our elected and appointed officials with accurate, timely information concerning the project as you have in the past.

Your designation is effective immediately.

Sincerely,


Larry Townsend, Mayor

**Office of the Mayor
City of Milton
City Hall
Milton, WV 25541**

March 12, 1999

FEMA Region 3
Attn: Joe Zagone
Liberty Square Bldg.
2nd Floor
105 South 7th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Zagone:


On behalf of the citizens of the City of Milton, I would like to invite you to present information to our residents concerning programs available through your organization that focus on Hazard/Flood damage mitigation. Of particular interest, would be information regarding **Project IMPACT** and methods that our community can initiate to offset the losses suffered when our streams and rivers flood adjacent residential areas.

My Flood Mitigation Liaison Officer, Dr. Mark Carter, has arranged for a formal presentation of efforts taken by the Corps of Engineers to help mitigate flood damage in our area. This presentation has been scheduled for 7:00-8:00 PM on April 29, 1999. I believe that your presentation would be of great benefit to the citizens who plan to attend that session; thus, I think that a FEMA presentation immediately following the Corps of Engineers session would be ideal in helping our citizens to consider mitigation efforts that they may take while awaiting the other federal and/or state initiatives.

I encourage you to speak with Dr. Carter or Mr. Don Horton of the City of Milton Utilities Department should you have any questions, administrative, or media needs regarding this presentation. They may be reached at 304/743-3032 or via Email at CounselorMU2@msn.com.

I look forward to meeting with you again on April 29th.

Sincerely,


Larry Townsend, Mayor

NICK J. RAHALL II
3d DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

RANKING DEMOCRAT:
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
AVIATION

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4803

March 14, 1999

2307 RAYBURN BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4803
(202) 225-3452

110 1/2 MAIN ST., BECKLEY, WV 25801-4898
(304) 252-5000

845 FIFTH AVE., ROOM 152
HUNTINGTON, WV 25701-2086
(304) 522-NICK

601 FEDERAL ST., ROOM 1005
BLUEFIELD, WV 24701-3033
(304) 325-6222

R K BUILDING, 45 WASHINGTON AVE.
LOGAN, WV 25601-3900
(304) 752-4934

101 NORTH COURT ST., P.O. Box 5
LEWISBURG, WV 24901-0005
(304) 647-3228

Hon. Tommy Harbour
878 E. Main St.
Milton, WV 25541

Dear Tommy:

I wanted to take this opportunity to follow-up on our recent meeting regarding the Lower Mud River flood control project.

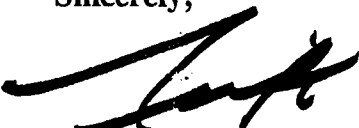
As you know, pursuant to my legislation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took this project over from the Natural Resources Conservation Service which was not able to move forward with the plan it had devised. To date, Congress has appropriated \$400,000 to the Corps to review the NRCS plan and move forward to the project design stage. It is my understanding that a design agreement between the Corps and a non-Federal sponsor, which would either be the State of West Virginia or Milton, is scheduled to be entered into this Spring. Keep in mind that a non-Federal sponsor is necessary for this project to proceed.

At this time, I am seeking to obtain a \$1 million appropriation for the project in order to facilitate its design. In the event a non-federal sponsor provides the necessary cost-sharing, and we are successful in future Congressional appropriations, construction could commence in the year 2001-2002 time frame. We are probably looking at a total project cost of around \$17 million.

I hope this information is useful to you, and again, it was a pleasure meeting with you.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

NJR/jz

*Tommy
Warmest personal regards &
deepest appreciation,
[Signature]*

**Office of the Mayor
City of Milton
City Hall
Milton, WV 25541**

March 18, 1999

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Louis Aspey, Project Engineer-Mud River Flood Mitigation Project
502 8th Street
Huntington, WV 25701

Dear Mr Aspey:

Thank you for your interaction with our Liaison Officer, Dr. Mark Carter, and your cooperation in providing us with timely, accurate information concerning the Mud River project. Dr. Carter has indicated that you are enthusiastic about bringing this project to fruition. As you know, Dr. Carter has arranged to facilitate a forum with our citizens in which FEMA and other state agencies have agreed to provide critical information to our citizens. I know that our people would appreciate an update concerning the project for which you are providing oversight.

On behalf of the citizens of the City of Milton, I would like to formally invite you to present information to our residents concerning the current status of the project and projections for future efforts to ensure completion of this venture.

Reaction to the planning for this forum has been encouraging. I know that you will have an excellent turnout. Dr. Carter has taken steps to invite a number of dignitaries such as:

Governor Underwood	State Representative Evan Jenkins
Senator Robert Byrd	State Representative Arley Johnson
Senator Jay Rockefeller	State Representative Margarette Leach
Congressman Bob Wise	State Representative Charles Romine
Congressman Nick Rahall	State Representative Susan Hubbard
State Senator Marie Redd	State Representative Jody Smirl

It is anticipated that a number of these individuals, or their representatives, will be in attendance at this forum; thus, this is an excellent opportunity to convey to the citizenry the commitment on the part of our federal, state, and local agencies to provide for the public safety.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, feel free to contact Dr. Carter at 304/743-1550 or via Email at CounselorMU2@msn.com.

I look forward to meeting with you again on April 29th.

Sincerely,


Larry Townsend, Mayor

**Office of the Mayor
City of Milton
City Hall
Milton, WV 25541**

May 5, 1999

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Louis Aspey, Project Engineer-Mud River Flood Mitigation Project
502 8th Street
Huntington, WV 25701

Dear Mr Aspey:

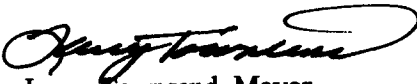
Thank you for your fine presentation at our Citizen's Forum held on April 29, 1999. Your comments were extremely valuable to those members of our community who constantly face the perils of flooding.

I, and our City Council, noted the professional manner with which you facilitated your presentation. Since that forum, I have received a number of positive comments concerning the important information you revealed to us.

Please convey our appreciation to Mr. Larry Layman of the Soil Conservation Agency. His comments were also very timely and valuable in helping our citizens understand the complexity of a large initiative such as the Mud River Cleanout. A copy of this correspondence will be forwarded to his agency.

Again, please accept my thanks on a job well done.

Sincerely,



Larry Townsend, Mayor

cc: Mr. Larry Layman, WV Soil Conservation Agency



Cecil H. Underwood
Governor

West Virginia
Soil Conservation Agency
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0193
Phone: (304) 558-2204
Fax: (304) 340-4839

Gus R. Douglass
Chairman

Lance Tabor
Executive Director

September 15, 1999

Rex Burford
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Attorney General's Office
Building 1, Room E-26
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0220

Dear Mr. Burford:

The West Virginia Soil Conservation Agency and the United States Army Corps of Engineers are entering into an agreement to develop a design plan for the Lower Mud River Flood Control Project, Milton, West Virginia under authorities specified in the Agreement.

We are respectfully requesting that you conduct a legal review of the enclosed draft design agreement and provide the Certification of Authority found at page 13 of the Agreement.

We will appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible so that a date for signatures may be scheduled. Should you have any questions, you may call me at 558-2204. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Russell Campbell".

W. Russell Campbell
Assistant Director

RC/dh Enclosures

CC: Lance Tabor, WVSCA Executive Director
Dana Robertson, Corps of Engineers, Colonel
Boyd Meadows, Guyan SCD
Louis Aspey, Corps of Engineers
Larry Layman, WVSCA



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W. Russell Campbell
Assistant Director

RC/dh Enclosures

CC: Lance Tabor, WVSCA Executive Director
Dana Robertson, Corps of Engineers, Colonel
Boyd Meadows, Guyan SCD
Louis Aspey, Corps of Engineers
Larry Layman, WVSCA



Bob Wise
Governor

West Virginia
Soil Conservation Agency
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0193
Phone: (304) 558-2204
Fax: (304) 340-4839

Gus R. Douglass
Chairman

Lance Tabor
Executive Director

January 25, 2001

Mr. Louis E. Aspey II, Project Manager
Project Management Branch
Programs and Project Management Division
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

Dear Mr. Aspey:

I want to thank you for the Lower Mud Project briefing and update the Corps provided to Congressman Rahall's staff member, the Mayor and official of the City of Milton, the Chairman of the Guyan Soil Conservation District and representatives of the West Virginia Soil Conservation Agency on January 24th. The information presented is vital to the ongoing decision steps for development of a successful flood control project for the Lower Mud River at Milton.

The local, non-federal sponsors described several crucial areas of concern that they determined needed to be specifically addressed in order to minimize impact to local residents and to maximize benefits from the proposed project. As a result of identification of these crucial issues by the local sponsors, the Corps responded positively that these issues would be considered in the continued development of this flood control project.

Before we proceed with the next phase of our agreement, we want to ensure that these issues are resolved. Again, thanks for the informative presentation; it was well done and effective. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

W. Russell Campbell
Assistant Director

RC/at 330-11-20
C: Tommy Harbour, Boyd Meadows, Lance Tabor



1595 U.S. Route 60 E. • P. O. Box 98 • Milton, West Virginia 25541-0098
Telephone (304) 743-3032 • Fax (304) 743-1872

Tommy L. Harbour, Mayor
H. M. (Mike) Adams, Recorder
Council Members:
John Bledsoe
Chris Carter
Gary Holbert
Jack Sayre
Eli White

August 20, 2002

US Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Louis E. Aspey II
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701

Dear Mr. Aspey,

It is with great urgency that we as Council for the City of Milton write to you to express our unanimous support for flood control for our City. Consistent and devastating flooding of the lower Mud River has plagued the City of Milton for years. Flooding has routinely affected our residents and businesses financially and emotionally while numerous meetings and plans for flood control have been discussed in town meetings and reviewed by various government agencies. Nonetheless, no desirable means for flood control can be agreed upon between our representatives controlling our tax money purse strings and those who guard our environment. While we do not discount the importance of a nexus linking maximum flood protection with cost efficiency, we do raise a spreading and common concern that an approved plan for flood control for our town will never come to fruition.

By way of background, for the past twenty years, city, state and federal officials have worked together to create a flood control plan for the lower Mud River watershed. This process has involved concerned citizens, city officials, the local Guyan Soil Conservation District, state government officials, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, the West Virginia Conservation Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials, and West Virginia's congressional representatives and senators. As a result of nearly twenty years of churning of ideas and cost-benefit analysis, the mandate for flood control for the City of Milton is currently saddled on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corp has proposed five alternatives to protect the City and will continue to study these alternatives through 2003 to determine each option's viability.

Presently, Council for the City is greatly concerned with a recent petition that has been circulated and signed by many area residents acknowledging opposition to the Corps "flood plan of a levy and approve the channel plan as it meets the needs of Milton area citizens." This petition is without merit in that the signing parties were uninformed on the complexities of flood control, were unaware of the nature of the document signed, or were not in a class of people who would be affected by one of the proposed flood control alternatives. The petition certainly can tell us nothing about what information was communicated to the signing citizen nor can it tell us whether said citizen has any interest in objecting to flood control. The petition's terms and purpose are vague and grossly general, and it should not be construed as the popular position of the City of Milton. Conversely, a viable plan for flood control can only help our city, our residents and our businesses. It is therefore the position of City Council and each of its members that it and each of them will support the Army Corps of Engineers in providing a mechanism for flood control for Milton. Council recognizes that the substantial funding involved in this project is a golden opportunity for the City to end the unnecessary devastations of nature. As a result, Council pledges to become pro-active in the ongoing flood control studies and in educating its citizens on the means and benefits of an ultimate solution.

We express our sincere thanks in your efforts to protect our citizens and hope you will consider this message in moving forward toward flood protection for the City of Milton.

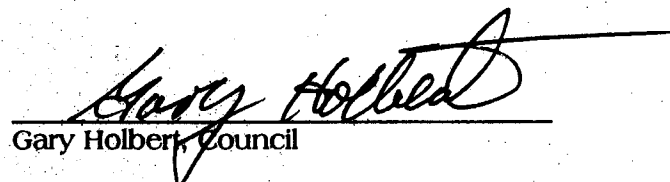
Sincerely,


Tommy Harbour, Mayor

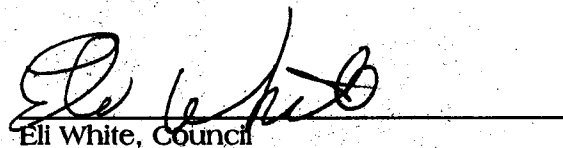

Mike Adams, Recorder


John Bledsoe, Council


Chris Carter, Council


Gary Holbert, Council


Jack Sayre, council


Eli White, Council

September 30, 2002

Mr. Louis Aspey, Project Engineer
Army Corps of Engineers
502 8th St
Huntington WV 25701

Dear Mr. Aspey;

I am writing this letter concerning the Levee Plan for Georgia Avenue in Milton WV 25541. I appreciate your speaking with me on the phone today. I attended the meeting last fall held concerning the flooding problem and I have the handouts provided. My husband, Dave, and I now own the land at the end of Georgia Avenue and my parent's house at the end of River Road. This land has been in the family for almost 50 years. We are not presently using the land for grazing cattle, hay or farming; however, we intend to in the future as we are nearing retirement. This land is valuable only to us. I am sure the Town of Milton could care less what happens to it or anything else of this side of Mud River. I also want to rid this area of the flooding problems. My main concern is for the Georgia Avenue area as the Town of Milton has taken care of itself by filling in the river bank for years, much to their benefit. This has caused the backwater in our field to rise in feet each time we get more than a few inches of rain.

However, the water only rises occasionally and the 13 acres at the end of Georgia Avenue is very important to us. We have no intentions of building on this land. We did not purchase it to make money off of it. This land is beautiful and means a lot to us. We just saw 10 deer pass over it and graze on it down by the river. We are working hard to keep it up, as it has always been. My father worked this land for almost 50 years! Each year we intend to do more to keep it beautiful and work it, like God intended.

Please keep this in mind when you are determining which of your three levee plans to pursue.

Sincerely,



David & Theresa Cornell
Rt. 2, Box 120A
Milton WV 25541-9774
Phone: (304) 743-5951

Mr. Louis Aspey, Project Engineer
Army Corp of Engineers
502 8th St
Huntington WV 25701
February 18, 2003

Dear Mr. Aspey;

I am writing this letter after the flooding on the Mud River which took place this past weekend of February 16 and 17th. I know you are getting numerous calls concerning the Georgia Avenue area. We own the land at the lower end of Georgia Avenue. We were at our first actual meeting called by the Milton Town Council and the Corp of Engineers in January and we were not invited to it. We just called the City Hall and asked if we could come.

Was there ever a plan to go around our property? I believe when I first met you at an evening meeting in the Fall of 2001 at Milton City Hall, you explained the ring wall as going around the property. What happened to that Plan? What are you planning to do with all of our acreage? That is 13 or 14 acres of good, valuable, and very important to me, land. The Town of Milton has repeatedly filled and built in the floodplain. This riverbank that numerous businessmen & developers have filled in should have been keep free from development. We have called this to the attention of the County, State and Federal government numerous times. I sent pictures to Joe Zagoni, FEMA/Philadelphia PA, to the County, to the newspapers, to Washington DC. We talked to the news. We have tried for at least the past 6 years to make someone take note of the folly of the Town of Milton. They just shoot themselves in the foot every time they put in a new business along that riverbank!

At the last meeting with the Corp of Engineers, you were not there. So we have still not seen all of the plans, I heard you had five of them. Plus, there are so many people hollering "take care of me", that it is impossible for us to learn anything from the meeting. I tried to get the people on Georgia Avenue to help in the fight against what the Town was doing years ago. Most of them would not.

However, I also learned at the last meeting that you are down to two plans. I did notice from the layouts the lady had with her that one of the plans, whether it is one of the plans still under consideration, will take right up our driveway, which is the high point on the front riverbank and take every bit of our property. Of course the Town of Milton has agreed to go along with whatever plan you come up with, they have everything to gain and nothing to lose. They made valuable land and created businesses out of a riverbank and are making their fortune off of our misfortune! We have never infringed on anyone! All we want is to be left alone.

Why can't you fill in our property like the Town did on their side of the River and let us keep our land? We are not interested in contributing land that has been in our family for

over 50 years. How much money will the government save by taking all that we have? Why can't you build ~~us~~ a flood wall around the property? A ring wall should go "around" the property. And, our perilous situation should be just as important as anyone else. We will end up with a field full of sand that will be washed in by the flood waters and a lot of work to restore the land that the Town of Milton flooded!

Sincerely,

David & Theresa Cornell

David & Theresa Cornell
Rt. 2, Box 120A
Milton WV 25541-9774
Phone: (304) 743-5951